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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

TELETYPE INFORMATION REPORT

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		PRECEDENCE		PRIORITY	
COUNTRY HUNGARY		<input type="checkbox"/> ROUTINE		50X1-HUM	
SUBJECT SITUATION IN WESTERN HUNGARY					

DATE OF INFORMATION 26-31 OCTOBER 1956	REFERENCES
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1. THE SITUATION IN NORTHWEST HUNGARY IS COMPARABLE TO THAT CONFRONTING THE ALLIES IN LIBERATED FRANCE IN 1944, LEAVENED, HOWEVER, BY THE GENERAL GRIEF OVER THE KILLED AND WOUNDED FROM THE VARIOUS SHOOTINGS AND MASSACRES. THE SITUATION CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS ONE OF QUIET CHAOS. THERE IS NO SEMBLANCE OF ORDER IN THE POSITIVE SENSE. THE GENERAL STRIKE AFFECTS ALL WORK WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THAT BY CLERKS IN FOOD STORES AND CAFES. ALL RESTAURANTS ARE CLOSED. THERE IS A GENERAL PROHIBITION IN WESTERN HUNGARY AND ALLEGEDLY IN ALL OF HUNGARY ON THE SALE AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES. THE POPULATION IS STRICTLY REGARDING THIS PROHIBITION.

2. THE MASSACRE AT MAGYAROVAR RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF 101 PEOPLE, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM WERE UNDER 20 YEARS OLD, THERE WERE 200 WOUNDED. IT SYMBOLIZES THE GENERAL CAUSE OF BITTERNESS THROUGHOUT THE AREA. FOUR OF THE

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AVH OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE WERE TRAMPLED TO DEATH OR LYNCHED ON THE SPOT. THEY ARE NOW BURIED IN A DITCH OUTSIDE THE CHURCHYARD IN MAGYAROVAR, AND THE DITCH IS BEING USED AS A PUBLIC LATRINE.

3. THE POPULATION OF WESTERN HUNGARY, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, IS ENTHUSIASTIC IN ITS WELCOME TO WESTERN OBSERVERS. SOLDIERS BY THE HUNDREDS ARE MILLING AROUND QUIETLY. BOTH SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS HAVE REMOVED ALL INSIGNIA AND REPLACED THEM WITH RED, WHITE, AND GREEN RIBBON. IN SOME CASES, FORMER OFFICERS ARE ACTING AS LOCAL COMMANDANTS. THE AUTHORITY EXERCISED, HOWEVER, IS PASSIVE.

4. THE IMPRESSION IS INESCAPABLE THAT THE SPONTANEITY OF THE REVOLUTION HAS DISAPPEARED AS QUICKLY AS IT AROSE. THE MOOD IS ONE OF WATCHFUL WAITING. THE ONLY ACTIVITY IS CHANNELING RED CROSS SUPPLIES THROUGH THE AREA. IN GENERAL, THE MOOD IS ONE OF A CHURCH HOLIDAY. THE MOST STRIKING THING IS THE QUIET OPTIMISM AND UNQUALIFIED CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE IN THEIR CAUSE. AT FIRST, UNDER THE PRESENT UNCLEAR CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS CONFIDENCE SEEMS UNJUSTIFIED. HOWEVER, THIS CONFIDENCE IS BASED ON ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY THAT, WHATEVER HAPPENS, THE RUSSIANS MUST LEAVE HUNGARY. THIS VIEW WAS EXPRESSED LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF TIMES.

5. WESTERN HUNGARIANS DO NOT KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN, BUT DO KNOW WHAT CANNOT HAPPEN: IS IT/SIMPLY INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE RUSSIANS 50X1-HUM WOULD BE ALLOWED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES TO REMAIN IN HUNGARY, WHATEVER OTHER RESULT THE REVOLUTION MAY HAVE. THIS IS THE ROOT OF HUNGARIAN CONFIDENCE. IT FOLLOWS THAT A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN ANY FORM IS LIKEWISE IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE

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THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH HUNGARIAN COMMUNISTS TO ENFORCE SUCH A REGIME WITHOUT ON-THE-SPOT AID OF THE RUSSIANS. THERE IS ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE THAT THE ELECTIONS PROMISED BY THE NAGY GOVERNMENT WOULD RESULT IN AN OVERWHELMING VICTORY FOR THE ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES.

6. THUS, IN THE LONG RUN, THE SITUATION FOR THE RUSSIANS AND THE REMAINING LOCAL HUNGARIAN COMMUNISTS LOOKS HOPELESS. THIS DOES NOT DENY THE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIETS, IN CONCERT WITH A RUMP HUNGARIAN COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT, COULD SIMPLY REFUSE TO BUDGE. THEY COULD QUIETLY OCCUPY KEY POINTS WITHIN THE COUNTRY, WHERE POSSIBLE TO DO SO WITHOUT INCIDENT, AND ACHIEVE SOME SORT OF STATUS QUO, WHICH THE HUNGARIAN INSURGENTS WOULD PROVISIONALLY ACCEPT. THE INSURGENT ATTITUDE OUTSIDE BUDAPEST IN WESTERN HUNGARY IS SURPRISINGLY PASSIVE.

7. IT IS EQUALLY EVIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD TAKE ONLY ONE OR TWO INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE TO PRECIPITATE ANOTHER VIGOROUS UPSORGE OF REBELLION. THE RUSSIAN COMMAND IN HUNGARY IS OBVIOUSLY FULLY AWARE OF THIS PECULIAR FEATURE OF THE SITUATION. SHOULD THE SOVIETS TAKE ACTION TO PUT DOWN THE REBELLION, THE RESULT WOULD BE A VICILENT BUT COMPLETELY UNORGANIZED REACTION BY THE HUNGARIANS MAKING OF FOR ANOTHER SERIES OF MASSACRES. ANTI-RUSSIAN FEELING IN MOST/HUNGARY IS SO STRONG THAT OBSERVERS, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, ACCEPT SUCH A REACTION AS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION.

8. IT IS DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE THE INTENSITY OF ANTI-RUSSIAN FEELING BY THE HUNGARIANS. IT AMOUNTS TO PHYSICAL REVULSION. IT IS EASY TO SEE WHY.

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WAS ALMOST INCREDIBLE. THE UNFAILING COMMENT OF HUNGARIANS ON THIS IS THAT "FOR 12 YEARS WE HAVE HAD THE RUSSIANS ON OUR BACKS AND....WE LIVE IN FILTH. THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE ARE INDUSTRIOUS AND WILLING TO WORK UNDER ANY REASONABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT UNDER RUSSIAN HEGEMONY IT SIMPLY IS UNBEARABLE". ON THE SUBJECT OF THE MASSACRE AT MAGYAROVAR, ONE CAUSE OF FURIOUS INDIGNATION WAS THAT THE AVH OFFICIAL WHO ORDERED FIRING ON THE CROWD WAS ONLY 24 YEAR OLD. THE HUNGARIANS SAY: "THIS IS WHAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE DONE TO MANY OF OUR PEOPLE. THEY HAVE TAKEN YOUNG MEN AND MADE OF THEM DISPICABLE CURS, THE BASEST INSTRUMENTS OF BLOODY SUPPRESSION AND INHUMAN TORTURE".

COMMENT: THIS IS A VERBATIM QUATATION.)

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9. TO SUM UP, WHATEVER IMMEDIATE MEASURES THE RUSSIANS AND HUNGARIAN COMMUNISTS MAY TAKE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION AND WHATEVER IMMEDIATE SUCCESS THESE MEASURES MAY HAVE, THEIR SITUATION SEEMS ABSOLUTELY HOPELESS FROM A PSYCHOLOGICAL VIEWPOINT.

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END OF MESSAGE

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